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LETTER DATED 2 NOVEMBER 1995 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 1 November 1995 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statement by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia issued on 1 November 1995

The claims that the Yugoslav Army had either directly or indirectly taken part in the operations for the liberation of the Muslim military stronghold of Srebrenica in July 1995 are completely unfounded.

Such falsehoods, as well as untrue allegations on the existence of prison camps for the Muslims in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, are part of well-known campaigns always launched at crucial moments when peace in the war-torn regions of the previous Yugoslavia is about to be reached.

On this occasion, it is obvious that what is at stake is an attempt to exert pressure on the Serb side during the peace process and negotiations in Dayton since not a single member of the Yugoslav Army participated in the battles around Srebrenica and there are no camps for Muslim prisoners in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia urges and supports the investigation of war crimes and the punishment of their perpetrators wherever they may be and regardless of which side they belong to. The latest campaign by some Western media which accuses only the Serbs without any proof does not contribute to this goal, whose aim is a propaganda war which is hardly a necessary element for conducting peace talks in Dayton. Lacking an opportunity to orchestrate a third Merkale (Sarajevo market) incident, the forces that obviously do not seek peace, are spreading this disinformation in order to divert the attention of the world public from Yugoslavia's constructive and peaceful policy, thus diminishing the prospects of a positive outcome of the negotiations.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia once again wishes to draw the attention of the international public to the drama of the remaining Serbs in the Republic of Serb Krajina who for months daily pay with their lives just because they are Serbs. It is expected of the international community to respond to the biggest ethnic cleansing carried out so far in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, following Croatia's brutal aggression against the Serb Krajina and after joint Muslim-Croat attacks on traditionally Serb ethnic territories in western and north-western Bosnia, even after a cease-fire agreement was announced.

Witness accounts and evidence of this ongoing tragedy can in no way be compared to the untrue claims by certain intelligence and propaganda centres which seek the continuation of the war.